

GERMANS MASS 300,000 TURKS TO WIN EGYPT

Railroad from Damascus
to Frontier Complete
by February 1.

MATERIAL READY
TO BRIDGE SUEZ

Emissaries Urge Senousi and
Abyssinians to Attack—
Desert Being Piped.

London, Dec. 16.—The massing of 300,000 Ottoman troops between Alexandria, Aleppo and Hama, the piping of hundreds of miles of pipe to convey drinking water to the desert and the rapid construction of a railroad from Damascus to the Egyptian frontier, lend renewed gravity to the Turkish-Turk front against Egypt, and army officers say that the danger is increasing daily. The railway, it is expected, will be completed by February, there being only fifty miles of track to lay before the final Peninsula is reached. This railway, which has double tracks, is considered by military men to permit of a concentration of half a million of men in one month, together with the necessary supplies and ammunition, at the Egyptian frontier.

The Ottoman troops are commanded and drilled by German officers. Turkish army engineers are providing material for the construction of bridges across the Nile. Turkish emissaries are said to be urging the Senousi to attack Egypt, and while an attempt also is made to induce the Abyssinians to march into Sudan, German emissaries are reported to be acting as intermediaries, organizers and military instructors.

The Rome newspapers ask if, after the loss of the Balkans, the Entente Powers are going to allow themselves to be taken by surprise in Egypt.

Loss of 2,000 Quis Turks

in Mesopotamia, Say British

London, Dec. 16.—General Townshend, commanding the British forces in Mesopotamia, reports the repulse of another attack at Kut-el-Amara, since which the Turks have been quiet. A Turkish official statement issued to-day says:

"General Townshend reports from Kut-el-Amara (Mesopotamia) that, according to Arab reports, the Turks lost 1,000 men in their attack on the evening of December 12. General Townshend cannot confirm this, but he himself estimates that the Turks lost fully 2,000. They have not resumed their attack since."

A Turkish official statement given out in Constantinople to-day says:

"The Turkish forces of Kut-el-Amara, situated on the right bank of the Tigris, were taken by storm December 12. One of the hostile motives was the loss of the Tigris."

Urges Independence Pledge

to Win Abyssinia to Allies

Paris, Dec. 16.—"The Excelsior" says the Chamber of Deputies is considering a resolution made by Gaston Calmette.

CUT FOOD COSTS, REICHSTAG PLEA

Budget Committee Asks
Reduction for Vegetables
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USE OF U. S. MAILED
AROUSES COMMONS

England Has Spoken to Wash-
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many, Says Lord Cecil.

Berlin, Dec. 16.—The budget committee of the Reichstag has adopted resolutions for the regulation and cheapening of food supplies. These include a reduction in the maximum prices for rice and vegetables of all kinds and stock feed, and provision for special allowances of grain to breeders of animals and poultry.

The committee also has adopted a resolution recommending the reduction of the age limit for old age pensions from seventy years to sixty years. Another resolution increases in the law allowances of the families of soldiers and the pay of privates were for further action.

LONDON PRAISES SIR JOHN FRENCH

Sees More Honors for General—
Selection of Haig Wins
British Approval.

(By Cable to the Tribune.)

London, Dec. 17.—The British press has been unanimous in its praise of the selection of Sir John French as commander-in-chief of the British forces in France. The British nation approves and indorses the action of the King in conferring on him the title of viscount, but it is expected that he will be the recipient of further honors. It is the custom for the victors of the battle of the Marston to receive the thanks of both houses of Parliament and a grant of a considerable sum of money, and although French's title of viscount is not yet in sight, there is not likely to be any exception in his case.

As commander of that "contemptible little army" which withstood the German onslaught at Mons and destroyed the Kaiser's hopes of conquering France before Russia had time to complete mobilization, the British people feel he deserves every honor in his power to confer. After the Boer War, Lord Roberts received the thanks of Parliament and \$500,000, and Earl Kitchener the thanks of Parliament and \$250,000.

However, criticisms have been directed against the staffs of the British army in Flanders, says "The Manchester Guardian," "there has never been a word against that of General Haig, which is the most fitting British army commander."

General Haig assumes his new office at a moment when comparative quiet prevails on all fronts, although rumblings of threatened big movements are heard in the east and west alike.

CHURCHILL ESCAPES DEATH

German Shell Hits Dugout of ex-Cabinet Minister.

London, Dec. 16.—Winston Spencer Churchill, who resigned as Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster to join his regiment at the front, had a narrow escape from death a few days ago, according to wounded men who have arrived home.

Mr. Churchill's dugout was hit by a German shell, say the soldiers.

RECENTS.

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HOLIDAYS AT THE TRAYMORE.

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The Chancellor agreed that it was "very undesirable that control of the great Canadian railways should pass into American hands, and steps will be taken to prevent that."

GAS BOMBS USED IN VENICE RAID

Aircraft Drop Asphyxiating
Missiles for First Time in
Attack Kept Secret.

Venice, Dec. 16.—The use of asphyxiating gas in the bombs dropped on Venice has added a new terror to these aerial raids. Not until the raid of November 18 was the deadly gas used in bombs dropped on cities, here or anywhere else, so far as is known.

The raid on November 18 was not made known at the time, even Rome not knowing that it had occurred, as the military authorities threw a rigid cordon of silence around the city. It was not until the raid was reported in the "Times" that some arrangement will be made to meet the case.

GERMANS IN TURK MINISTRY

Paris Hears Teutons Are To Be Ap-
pointed Under Secretaries of State.

Paris, Dec. 16.—A Havas dispatch from Athens dated yesterday says:

"A diplomatic authority here gives out the news that the Ottoman government has consented to the appointment of two Germans as under secretaries of state in the finance and justice departments of the Turkish administration."

The point to make and defeat them. In fact, the Bulgarians were so deceived by the rapidity of the manoeuvres and the prelude of the movements of the Entente troops that they lost much time in the exterior, and a document of the Strumitsa which the French force had abandoned on the preceding day.

A dispatch to the Paris "Temps" from Salonica says that the general commanding the 5th Greek Army Corps, the Greek capital, has authorized the declaration that Bulgaria will postpone operations against the Entente Allies out of a desire to respect Greek neutrality.

An official announcement issued at Sofia says:

"Bulgarian armies, by the capture of Monastir and Resna, having approached the Greek frontiers, the Bulgarian government, wishing to avoid any possibility of accidents between advanced posts and Greek frontier guards, proposed to the Greek government that a neutral zone be formed by the retreat of the troops on each side two kilometers from the frontier."

Greece replied, accepting, and the War Minister ordered the Greek authorities to cooperate with Bulgarian officers for the formation of the neutral zone.

Bulgar Advance Halts.

Monastir and Resna are in western Serbia. The statement contains no mention of the approach of Bulgarian troops to the frontier in southeastern Serbia in their pursuit of the Anglo-French forces that recently retired across the border, and it is not clear whether the neutral zone arrangement announced extends to this easterly territory of the frontier. Official announcements have stated that the Bulgarian pursuit of the Allies stopped at the Greek border, but a Sofia statement to-day mentioned the Bulgarian advance in this sector to have been "temporarily" stopped.

According to information from a reliable source, says the Havas agency, at Salonica, 60,000 Germans are now at Givigli. Other German troops are reported to be descending the Vlado-Dorian road toward the Greek frontier. The railroad station at Doiran, the correspondent says, has been occupied by Greek troops.

Austro-Hungarian troops, pushing their advance in Montenegro, have reached the vicinity of Biopolje, on the Lim River, where they are crowded by the Serbian border. It was announced to-day by German Army Headquarters.

From Sofia it is reported that recruits from occupied districts in Serbia have been invited to join the Serbian army. These recruits, with soldiers chosen from men hitherto exempted and men nineteen years of age, it is declared in these advices, are expected to produce a new force of 150,000.

Serbian Division Safe.

A division of the Serbian army, consisting 15,000 Austro-Hungarian prisoners of war, has arrived at Tirana and Elbasan, in Albania, according to a Havas dispatch from Janina, Albania. The Serbian officers and soldiers are in good spirits, and they are ready and eager to resume the struggle.

There are 200,000 Entente troops at Salonica, according to "The Daily Mail," who Salonica correspondent says were brilliantly carried out that the large force of Bulgarians was unable at any

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